

Mexico's Interest in Energy Efficiency Grows

AHR Expo-Mexico Increases Attendance, Showcases Innovation

MEXICO CITY—The increased attendance at this year's AHR Expo-Mexico parallels the country's growing focus on energy efficiency.

A total of 9,809 verified visitors—an AHR Expo-Mexico record—attended the Show Oct. 2-4 in Mexico City, according to the Expo. Besides the visitors, 3,851 attended the Show as registered exhibitor personnel, representing 41 countries and 414 exhibiting companies. All these numbers are AHR Expo-Mexico records.

"The more times that the AHR Expo-Mexico has been held, the more momentum it has picked up and the more commonly recognized it has become as a huge asset for HVAC&R professionals in Mexico," Clay Stevens, Show manager, said.

The growing interest in Mexico's HVAC&R industry comes from both inside and outside the country.

Ana Cecilia Garay-Chaparro, Member ASHRAE, former president of the ASHRAE Monterrey Chapter, attributed the industry and Mexico's increased focus on energy efficiency to Mexico's growing economy and the number of buildings under construction.

She said tall buildings that house mixed-use developments are being built in cities. The increase in tall buildings in Mexico is contributing to the growth of district cooling in the country, she said.

"There's growing interest in Mexico, so they come here (to the Show). Every year there are more companies from other countries," said Garay-Chaparro, who works for Baltimore Aircoil Company.

The future of Mexico's commercial sector looks promising, said Carlos Hermida, chief financial officer for GREE Mexico. As the Mexican economy continues to grow every year, he expects the market to double in size in the next 10 years.

Another exhibitor, Dave Thomas, a national sales manager for Sporlan/RAC Platform at Parker Sporlan, said he has seen significant growth in the supermarket and residential HVAC sectors.

The Mexican government is becoming more aware about energy efficiency, Garay-Chaparro said, because



Andres Valles and Eric McClure present the Parker Sporlan V300 Rapid Purger to rid noncondensables for greater efficiency in refrigerated warehouses. It tracks number of purges and loss of ammonia.

the price of electricity has increased.

"We cannot keep doing the same kind of things—design, operation of a building—because the cost of electricity increases a lot," she said.

The Mexican government is developing the Norma Oficial Mexicana (NOM), a series of official, compulsory standards and regulations, including for energy efficiency.

"Those standards are going to get tougher and tougher and tougher, which is good for us," said Luis Gerard of Bohn.

Products

Industry professionals are looking for ways to increase energy efficiency on projects and systems, and exhibiting companies shared ideas of how to achieve that goal, said Garay-Chaparro.

Companies at this year's Show displayed innovative products from condensing units to fans.

Multi-Wing high-efficiency EMAX4 Fans offer up to 77% total efficiency. EMAX4 decreases noise by 2-3 dB and reduces energy consumption in air-cooled condensers, commercial refrigeration, chillers, cooling towers, evaporators and more.

The fans have a computer-optimized blade design for maximum performance, said Alejandro Trevino from Multi-Wing Mexico.

The industrial market for ammonia and CO₂ refrigerants is growing, said Eric McClure, a division sales manager for Parker Sporlan.

The company showcased its V300 Rapid Purger, which is designed for refrigeration systems and will purge non-condensable gas that can negatively affect system performance and improve the equipment's overall efficiency.

Ammonia is the refrigerant of choice in Mexico and is popular for large applications such as food storage, cold storage warehouses and breweries, he said. The purger is used in ammonia applications and is designed to be a plug-and-play device where the operator inputs several points of information such as the date and the number of purge points, he said.

"It takes away the programming on-site," said McClure, adding that the equipment has a learning control and the capability of singling out the condensers



Luis M. Gerard of BOHN shows the new condensing unit FB digital scroll for the Mexico and South American marketplace. It includes electronically commuted motors and slim footprint suitable for convenience store application.

that would have the highest density of noncondensables.

Bohn introduced a condensing unit, the FB Digital Scroll, for its South American market, said Gerard. The product's EC motors with digital scroll make it more energy-efficient, he said. ■

Advertisement formerly in this space.